

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09978 01 OF 02 010947Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1555
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 09978

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNDP UNV
SUBJECT: 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - AGENDA ITEM 10 -
UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

1. ON JUNE 23 UNDP ADMINISTRATOR INTRODUCED AGENDA ITEM 10 TO PLENARY AS CONTAINED IN DP/330. HE FELT UN VOLUNTEERS HAD EXPERIENCED DYNAMIC GROWTH DURING THE PAST YEAR UNDER ABLE LEADERSHIP NEW COORDINATOR NEBULSI. IN HIS STATEMENT, UNV COORDINATOR EXPLAINED PROGRESS MADE OVER PAST YEAR, SAID UNV NOW STOOD AT 340 VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD AND THAT HIS OBJECTIVE WAS 400 BY DECEMBER THIS YEAR AND 500 BY DECEMBER 1979.

2. 12 COUNTRIES (FRG, SWITZERLAND, KENYA, IRAN, CANADA, SWAZILAND, NETHERLANDS, US, CUBA, UK, BRAZIL AND JORDAN) SPOKE ON ITEM AND ALL PRAISED GROWING LEVEL OF UNV ACTIVITY AND IMPROVED RECRUITMENT FROM DEVELOPING WORLD.

3. USDEL MADE DETAILED STATEMENT AS FOLLOW UP TO DR. PETER BOURNE'S COMMENTS IN OPENING DAYS OF CONFERENCE TO EFFECT THAT "THERE SHOULD BE AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR UNV PROGRAM. IT HAS EXCEPTIONAL POTENTIAL WHICH WE FEEL HAS
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 09978 01 OF 02 010947Z

NOT BEEN FULLY REALIZED. WE BELIEVE WAYS TO SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE EXAMINED."

4. US URGED FOLLOWING: (1) AT PRESENT UNVS ARE ONLY ASSIGNED TO UNDP FUNDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. US URGED THAT UNVS ALSO BE USED IN MULTI-BI, FUND-IN-TRUST, OR REGULAR BUDGET PROJECTS EXECUTED BY UN SPECIALIZED

AGENCIES;

(2) URGED THAT RECRUITMENT CONSTRAINTS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD BE REMOVED SO THAT UNV SECRETARIAT CAN ADVERTISE AND SELECT HIGHLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WITHOUT FORMAL APPROVAL OF SENDING ORGANIZATIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, UNV SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN DEVELOPED WORLD WITH SOME FREEDOM AS NOW OPERATING IN DEVELOPING WORLD;

(3) UNV SHOULD SEND VOLUNTEERS TO CARRY OUT DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING WORLD. GOVERNMENTS SHOULD INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNV'S SPECIAL FUND FOR THIS PURPOSE;

(4) ALL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH PROCESSING, WITH RECRUITING OR ACCEPTING VOLUNTEERS SHOULD REDUCE THEIR RED TAPE AND SPEED UP THEIR OPERATIONS. UNV ITSELF SHOULD USE MORE SOPHISTICATED MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES TO CARRY OUT ITS PROGRAM; AND

(5) AGREED WITH ADMINISTRATOR AND COORDINATOR THAT REQUIREMENT FOR FINANCING UNVS OUT OF IPFS IS A CONSTRAINT AND PLACES UN VOLUNTEERS IN UNFAVORABLE COMPETITION WITH ASSOCIATE EXPERTS. ASSOCIATE EXPERT PROGRAM NOW THREE TIMES SIZE OF UNV AND EXPERTS ARE SENT AT NO COST TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 09978 01 OF 02 010947Z

RECIPIENT COUNTRY. URGED STUDY AND REPORT TO 26TH GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION ON IMPACT THIS REQUIREMENT HAS HAD ON UNV GROWTH POTENTIAL.

5. AFTER DEBATE USDEL TOOK INITIATIVE IN PREPARING DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION. 21 DELEGATIONS WERE INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON THIS ITEM. FOLLOWING POINTS WORTH NOTING: (A) US DRAFT CALLED FOR ADMINISTRATOR TO REPORT TO 26TH GC "ON EFFECT OF IPF FUNDING" ON UNV'S ROLE IN LEAST DEVELOPED AND NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES. SWEDES AND CANADIANS IN PARTICULAR WERE ADAMANT ABOUT DELETING THIS REFERENCE TO IPF FUNDING SAYING THAT THEY DID NOT FEEL THIS WAS A CONSTRAINT AND WANTED TO RETAIN THIS APPROACH. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS, PHRASE WAS DELETED. MANY DEVELOPED COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TURNED DEAF EAR TO US STATEMENT THAT ASSOCIATE EXPERT PROGRAM WAS UNFAIR COMPETITION FOR UNV;

(B) US EFFORTS TO OPEN UP DEVELOPED COUNTRY RECRUITMENT WAS ALSO WATERED DOWN EVEN THOUGH THREE WESTERN EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS ADMITTED THAT THEIR SENDING ORGANIZATIONS "STOLE" CANDIDATES AWAY FROM UNV AND TALKED THEM INTO

SERVING IN THEIR NATIONAL PROGRAMS.

6. USDEL HAS STRONG IMPRESSION THAT MANY WESTERN EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS ARE PUBLICLY PRAISING UNV BUT REALLY UNINTERESTED IN SEEING IT EXPAND. THE FOLLOWING DECISION WAS APPROVED BY CONSENSUS JUNE 30 WITH NO DEBATE, BUT USDEL EXPECTS A DEBATE NEXT YEAR ON THIS ITEM, PARTICULARLY IF THE REQUIREMENT OF IPF FUNDING IS RELAXED, FOR WHICH US SHOULD BE PREPARED.

7. BEGIN TEXT: THE GOVERNING COUNCIL:

(A) TOOK NOTE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT ON UNITED

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 09978 01 OF 02 010947Z

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09978 02 OF 02 010947Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 09978

NATIONS VOLUNTEERS (DP/330 AND CORR. 1);

(B) HAVING CONSIDERED THE INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE CO-ORDINATOR AND OF THE OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS MADE DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM;

1. CONSIDERS THAT UNV HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE PARTICULARLY TO LEAST DEVELOPED AND NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES;

2. REQUESTS THE ADMINISTRATOR TO REPORT TO ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION ON THE PROGRAMME'S ROLE IN LEAST DEVELOPED AND NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES;

3. INSTRUCTS THE ADMINISTRATOR TO REPORT ON UNV RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES AND, IF THERE IS A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED NEED, TO SUGGEST WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THEM;

4. APPEALS TO ALL COUNTRIES TO ASSIST THE UNV TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND RECRUITMENT OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES;

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 09978 02 OF 02 010947Z

5. NOTES THE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND DOES NOT PERMIT IT TO FULLY UNDERTAKE PROGRAMMES IN THE DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AS ENVISAGED UNDER RESOLUTION 31/131 AND 31/166 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND APPEALS TO GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTIONS OR INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND;

6. REQUESTS THE ADMINISTRATOR TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE OVER-ALL ACTIVITIES OF UNV. END TEXT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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